

Written Comments by Charles J. Everett, Department of Family Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, USA

First, I would like to compliment Kris Thayer and other NTP scientists for putting on a very informative workshop. As an epidemiologist, I benefited from the discussion dealing with toxicology and the linkages between toxicology and environmental epidemiology.

Second, I would like to reiterate comments made by my colleague, Ivar L. Frithsen, that clinically relevant outcomes on the continuum of diabetes should be investigated. For example, those who have type 2 diabetes and have become insulin dependent. On the other end of the spectrum, those with pre-diabetes should also be studied.

Third, I want to bring to the attention of the group, that a review article on “Relationship of polychlorinated biphenyls with type 2 diabetes and hypertension” by CJ Everett, I Frithsen, and M Player, is available from the Journal of Environmental Monitoring.

Fourth, in my opinion, the greatest obstacle to progress in the realm of epidemiological studies is the sample volume of blood needed for analysis. Two participants suggested 0.25-0.50 ml as a desirable sample volume for these types of studies.

Finally, I'd like to thank NTP for inviting the interested public to participate in this workshop. I think this workshop could be a model for future workshops on cardiovascular disease, etc.